

What is Claimed:

1 1. A device for aiding in the closure of a wound for use with at
2 least one suture, said device comprising:

3 an external member; and

4 an internal member rotatably coupled to said external member, said
5 internal member having at least one receiver for receiving said at least one suture

6 wherein said device is for placement within said wound.

1 2. The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 suture is passed through said at least one receiver in said internal member, said at
3 least one suture being coupled to portions of said wound and tightened by rotating
4 said internal member in a first direction to draw said portions of said wound toward
5 one another.

1 3. The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 receiver is at least one of i) an aperture extending radially through said shaft, ii) a
3 hook disposed within said shaft, iii) a substantially "T" shaped element coupled to an
4 external portion of said shaft, and iv) a substantially hook shaped element coupled to
5 an external portion of said shaft.

1 4. A device for use with sutures to repair a wound of a patient,
2 said device comprising:

3 a body having a at least one aperture extending radially through said
4 body; and

5 a shaft at least partially disposed within and rotatably coupled to said
6 body, said shaft having a plurality of apertures and/or slots substantially in line with
7 said at least one aperture in said body, said plurality of apertures spaced apart from
8 one another and extending radially through said shaft.

1 5. The device according to claim 4, wherein said device is for
2 placement within said wound.

1 6. The device according to claim 5, wherein said sutures are
2 passed through said at least one aperture in said body and said plurality of apertures
3 in said shaft, said sutures being coupled to portions of said wound and tightened by
4 rotating said shaft in a first direction to draw said portions of said wound toward one
5 another.

1 7. The device according to claim 6, further comprising means for
2 preventing said shaft from rotating in a direction opposite to said first direction.

1 8. The device according to claim 7, wherein said means is a coil
2 spring disposed between an outer surface of said shaft and an inner surface of said
3 body.

1 9. The device according to claim 8, wherein a diameter of said coil
2 spring increases as said shaft is rotated in said first direction.

1 10. The device according to claim 9, further comprising means for
2 releasing tension of said coil spring to permit said shaft to rotate in said second
3 direction.

1 11. The device according to claim 10, wherein said means for
2 releasing tension comprises an end portion of said coil spring, said end portion being
3 moved in a direction to increase said diameter of said coil spring to permit said shaft
4 to be rotated in a direction opposite to said first direction.

1 12. The device according to claim 11, wherein said end portion at
2 least one of extends through a portion of said body and extends beyond an end of
3 said body.

1 13. The device according to claim 4, wherein said body further
2 comprises a coupling for providing a vacuum to an interior of said wound to extract
3 exudates from said wound.

1 14. The device according to claim 13, wherein said shaft has an
2 orifice extending at least partially along a longitudinal axis of said shaft, said orifice

3 coupled to said coupling and at least one of said plurality of holes and/or slots of said
4 shaft for providing said vacuum to said interior of said wound.

1 15. The device according to claim 14, wherein said body has at
2 least one orifice extending from an outer portion of said body in fluid tight relation
3 with said coupling for providing said vacuum to said interior of said wound.

1 16. The device according to claim 4, further comprising a means for
2 applying a rotational force to an end of said shaft to rotate said shaft with respect to
3 said body.

1 17. The device according to claim 4, wherein said patient is a
2 human.

1 18. The device according to claim 4, wherein said patient is an
2 animal.

1 19. A method for facilitating the healing of a wound, said method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 placing at least one suture between points on a margin of said wound;

4 applying tension to said at least one suture from within said wound;

5 and

6 maintaining said tension on said at least one suture for a
7 predetermined period of time.

1 20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 disposing a first body within a second body;

4 coupling said at least one suture to at least one of said first body and
5 said second body;

6 rotating said second body with respect to said first body to apply said
7 tension to said at least one suture.

1 21. The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step
2 of applying a vacuum to said wound.

1 22. A method for facilitating the healing of a wound, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a body having at least one aperture extending radially
4 through said body;

5 rotatably coupling a shaft to said body, said shaft having at least one
6 aperture and/or slot capable of being aligned with said at least one aperture in said
7 body;

8 placing said body and said shaft within a cavity of said wound;

9 attaching a first end of at least one suture to a first side of said wound;

10 passing a second end of said at least one suture through said body and
11 said shaft;

12 attaching said second end of said at least one suture to second side of
13 said wound; and

14 rotating said shaft with respect to said tubular body to pull said first
15 side of said wound and said second side of said wound toward one another.

1 23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 coupling a vacuum source to said body; and

4 forming a vacuum within said wound from said vacuum source to
5 extract exudates from said wound.

1 24. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step
2 of further rotating said shaft to apply a predetermined tension between sides of said
3 wound.

1 25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising the step
2 of detachably coupling a driver to said shaft to apply said predetermined tension.

1 26. A method for facilitating the healing of a wound, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a substantially tubular body having a plurality of apertures
4 extending radially through said tubular body;

5 rotatably coupling a shaft to said tubular body, said shaft having a
6 respective plurality of apertures and/or slots capable of being aligned with said holes
7 in said tubular body;

8 placing said tubular body and said shaft within a cavity of said wound;

9 attaching a first end of at least one suture to a first side of said wound;

10 passing a second end of said at least one suture through said tubular
11 body and said shaft;

12 attaching said second end of said at least one suture to second side of
13 said wound; and

14 rotating said shaft with respect to said tubular body to pull said first
15 side of said wound and said second side of said wound toward one another.

1 27. A device for use with sutures to repair a wound of a patient,
2 said device comprising:

3 a tubular body having a first plurality of apertures extending radially
4 through said tubular body, said plurality of apertures spaced apart from one another
5 along a length of said tubular body; and

6 a shaft disposed within and rotatably coupled to said tubular body,
7 said shaft having a respective plurality of apertures and/or slots substantially in line
8 with said apertures in said tubular body, said respective plurality of apertures spaced
9 apart from one another and extending radially through said shaft.

1 28. A device for use with sutures to repair a wound of a patient,
2 said device comprising:

3 a substantially U shaped body having a first passage and a second
4 passage in line with one another; and

5 a shaft rotatably coupled to said body at said first and second passage,
6 said shaft having a plurality of receivers spaced apart from one another and one of
7 extending radially through or coupled to said shaft.

1 29. A method for facilitating the healing of a wound using at least
2 one suture, the method comprising the steps of:

3 placing said at least one suture between points on a margin of said
4 wound;

5 applying tension to said at least one suture;

6 maintaining said tension on said at least one suture for a
7 predetermined period of time; and

8 applying a vacuum to said wound.

1 30. The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of
2 periodically re-tensioning said at least one suture.

1 31. A method for facilitating the healing of a wound, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 securing an apparatus for applying a force to margins of said wound to
4 at least a portion of said wound;

5 applying the force to the margins of the wound with said apparatus;
6 and

7 applying vacuum to said wound.

1 32. The method according to claim 31, wherein said tension is
2 applied from within said wound.

3 33. The method according to claim 31, wherein said wound is an
4 open wound.